

The regular monthly meeting of the Winchester Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was held on Monday March 28, 2011 in the Lord Fairfax Room of the War Memorial Building.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tim Grove, Krista Farris, John Elliott, Catherine Mattens, Kyle Homan, Jules Bacha, Susan Roberts

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Brian Wigley, Matt Mintschenko

STAFF PRESENT;

Brad Veach, Lisa Hamaker

CITY COUNCILOR:

Milt McInturff

CITY MANAGER:

Jim O'Connor

MEDIA PRESENT:

Vic Bradshaw

VISITOR:

Lt. Wyer, Winchester Police Department

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: TIM GROVE

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY MINUTES

The February minutes were approved pending discussed changes pertaining to consistently using the first and last names of board members. Motion by Kyle Homan; seconded by Jules Bacha, motion carried.

COUNCIL LIAISON: COUNCILMAN MCINTURFF

NOMINATION & ELECTION OF NEW CHAIR & VICE CHAIR

Nominations were taken for Park Board Chair and Vice-Chair to serve a one year term.

Nominations began for the position of Chair with John Elliott nominating Krista Farris and Tim Grove nominating Brian Wigley.

Motion to close by Kyle Homen seconded by Tim Grove.

By ballot, Krista Farris was elected Chair.

Nominations began for the position of Vice Chair with Krista Farris nominating John Elliott and John Elliott nominating Brian Wigley.

Motion to close by Kyle Homan and seconded by Tim Grove.

By ballot, John Elliott was elected Vice Chair.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: BRAD VEACH

RECENT INCIDENTS IN THE PARK

Brad Veach spoke of an incident that recently occurred in Jim Barnett Park near Wilkins Lake and Potts Basketball Courts that was non-park related. He asked the Winchester Police Dept. to attend the meeting and speak about the incident. This incident was the second incident that has occurred in the park in the past year.

Lt. Wyer of the Winchester Police Department spoke about the recent altercation that occurred in the park near Wilkins Lake and Potts Basketball Courts. He stated that the case as he understood it occurred in the early morning and it was a case of mistaken identity. He reinforced that the event was non-park related. He felt that it was still a safe area given that there is a lot of park-related activity at the basketball courts. He also stated that the Police Department has increased patrols in that area.

Tim Grove asked what the consequences were if someone where in the park after park hours. Lt. Wyer stated that the Police ask people to leave. If they don't the Police Department will issue a No Trespassing Notice. Tim grove asked if the rangers were in the park and Brad Veach confirmed that we do have seasonal Park Rangers that do patrol that area but they leave by 10:30 or 11:00 pm each evening so they would not have been there during the event.

Krista Farris asked why people were in the park at that time in the first place. Lt. Wyer was unsure of the reason why they were there at that time of the night. Brad Veach reconfirmed that the Police Department does patrol the park after hours. They do have keys to the park gates for access. The biggest issues that the Police Department sees in the park are trespassers jumping the fence into the outdoor pool during the summer months. Lt. Wyer also stated that in the summer the Police Department does step up Bike Patrols throughout Jim Barnett Park. Tim Grove asked if there would be any value in having cameras down in the Wilkins Lake area. Brad Veach and Lt. Wyer noted that with the lack of light in that area, cameras would probably not be beneficial.

Krista Farris asked if the entrance by Wilkins Lake was used for vehicular traffic during the night frequently. Brad Veach stated that it was due to the traffic from Shenandoah University

students. Brad Veach also mentioned that at this time we do not have restricted gated access to that area but it could be something to consider.

Tim Grove said that he felt happy with the current patrols that the Police Department was doing. Brad Veach mentioned that we could offer the option of keeping the basketball court lights on as a deterrent. He also mentioned the negative aspects are that the lights may bother Shenandoah University students and it may draw more basketball players after hours. Jules Bacha asked if Shenandoah University has patrolled that area at all. Brad Veach did state that Shenandoah University has assisted with limiting student parking around the lake.

John Elliott asked how many people he saw parked there after hours and Lt. Wyer stated that there were not many, but Tim Grove noted that gating off the area may help with vehicular traffic but will not really deal with foot traffic.

Jules Bacha mentioned that other than police patrols he didn't see much else that we could do that we are not already doing.

Krista Farris asked about the Shenandoah University Booth. Brad Veach stated that the security booth is no longer there, but they do have security that does patrol Shenandoah property. John Elliott asked if there were other incidents in the park. Brad Veach stated other than some trespassing and vandalism that normally occur; we have not had any other incidents. Tim Grove asked if people are banned from the park if they do damage. Lt. Wyer said they only take action if people do not leave when they are asked or unless they find damage.

PARK FUND BALANCE REVIEW

Brad Veach gave the Park Board an overview of the fund balance. The current balance is \$109,559 and that is down compared to the last few years.

\$75,000 was borrowed from the balance to help fund start-up costs for the World Series. The money will be returned to the fund balance at the conclusion of the event. In 2010, the fund balance was used to resurface the outdoor pool. The park would not have been able to open the outdoor pool if the repairs were not completed. Other projects included the completion of the Active Living Center, purchasing of playground equipment at Christianson Familyland, and the purchase of a pick-up truck and a Kubota.

Tim Grove asked what would happen if we didn't have that money. Brad Veach stated that we would have to go back to City Council and ask for that funding. Brad Veach also stated that some of the items that were purchase through the fund balance were unfunded requests. Brad

Veatch noted that the fund balance grows when the park under spends their operating budget and exceeds their revenue projections each year.

Kyle Homan asked if the money from the World Series comes back in excess will that money go into the fund balance as well. Brad Veatch clarified that only the borrowed money will go back into the fund balance. Any revenue beyond the original \$75,000 will go into the Winchester Park Foundation to support a possible future World Series event and baseball projects.

Tim Grove asked what other expenditures we may consider using the fund balance for in the future. Brad Veatch said that depending on what funding we receive from the City, one of the top priorities is to resurface the tennis courts. Shenandoah University has committed up to 33% of the cost of the project. The park would also consider using funds to update areas that currently do not meet ADA standards.

REGIONAL BMX EVENT

Brad Veatch spoke about how the event is starting to come together. The Winchester Park Foundation was awarded a grant to help fund some of the expenses that we were going to incur with this event. The Winchester BMX group has come before the board and they want to grow their sport and be involved. He encouraged the Park Board to come out to the event. The park is trying to do what we can to support this event. If this event goes well, they have a better chance of hosting a national event.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

SKATE PARK COMMITTEE: JOHN ELLIOTT

John Elliott reported that the Skate Park Committee is at the same status as last month. They are working on a preliminary plan with costs so they can come before the board. They hope to have a more substantial update by next meeting.

DESIGNATION OF PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

April Park Board meeting will be held April 25, 2011 at 6:30 PM.

Utilization Committee meeting will be held April 25, 2011 at 5:30. Brad Veatch will ask Dr. Bousquet to come to the meeting to speak about a mowing plan by the Natural Resources Advisory Board.

BOARD COMMENTS

Krista Farris asked about the Rotary 5K being planned the same Saturday morning as Pancake Day. Brad Veatch stated that we have been in communication with the Winchester Police

Department and everything is under control. He noticed that the race ends at the parking lot of the Rotary Shelter. They also use a portion of the shelter road which is completely blocked off from any traffic for their children's race. Brad Veach stated that the Police Department always has provided good support for the 5K event. Lisa Hamaker commented that Rotary has been working with the Shenandoah Valley Runners Club and they are looking at reworking the race course to keep runners off Maple Drive. Nothing has been officially changed, but the Kiwanis and Rotary organizations have also been working well together to make sure that both events go smoothly.

ADJOURN

Kyle Homan made a motion to adjourn the meeting; motion seconded by John Elliott, the motion carried.

Submitted by: Lisa Hamaker, Parks Operations Superintendent